

George G. Vega Yon

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website ggvy.cl
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Education

Ph.D. in Biostatistics (with concentration in Statistical Computing)

2020

University of Southern California, USA

Dissertation title: *"Essays on Bioinformatics and Social Network Analysis: Statistical and Computational Methods for Complex Systems"*

M.Sc. in Social Sciences (with concentration in Economics)

2016

California Institute of Technology, USA

Master in Economics and Public Policy

2011

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile

BS. in Business Administration (with a minor in Political Science)

2011

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile

Awards

Top paper award, International Communication Association

2022

Travel Grant, Society of Young Network Scientist

2019

Fellowship, California Institute of Technology

2014

Honorable Mention (Posters Session) Chilean Economics Society

2012

Scholarship, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez

2006

Major Areas of Research Interest

Social Networks and Complex Systems

Statistical Computing

Scientific Software Development

Non-parametric Statistics

Statistical Methods Development

Professional Experience

University of Utah, November 2021–Present Division of Epidemiology *Research Assistant Professor*.

University of Southern California, 2015–November 2021 Department of Preventive Medicine *Research Programmer*. As a senior research staff, I closely collaborate with researchers across the University. Besides providing technical support and educating community members on topics such as High-Performance-Computing and Statistical Computing–onsite workshops and presentations–, I actively contribute to grant-writing, leading research projects, and presenting to funding institutions–including NIH and DoD–and international conferences. Since August 2020, I also serve as a co-instructor for the Introduction to Data Science class of the Department’s master’s in Health Data Science program.

Chilean Pension Supervisor (Pension System Watchdog), August 2011– August 2014 Research Division *Analyst*. My main responsibilities were: Conducting statistical and econometric analysis of the Chilean unemployment insurance, developing scientific software to deal with big data, and serve as a bridge between the IT and Research divisions.

Nodos Chile Social Network Analysis Ltda., January 2012–January 2014 *Partner*. Founding partner of one of the first applied SNA Consultancy Entrepreneurship in Chile.

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, January 2011–June 2012. School of Government *Adjunct Professor*. Taught Introductory courses of Economics, Microeconomics and Statistical computing with Stata.

Chilean Ministry of Social Planning, March 2011–December 2011. Social Programs Monitoring *Analyst*. Survey and Analysis of the Government social programs supply and supporting the Monitoring Division with the Open-Data Initiative.

Peer Reviewed Publications

- [1] Marie Ouellet, Sadaf Hashimi, and **George G. Vega Yon**. “Officer Networks and Firearm Behaviors: Assessing the Social Transmission of Weapon-Use”. In: *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* (June 2022). URL: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-022-09546-9>.
- [2] Marian-Gabriel Hâncean, Matjaž Perc, **George G. Vega Yon**, et al. “The formation of political discussion networks”. In: *Royal Society Open Science* 9.1 (Jan. 2022), p. 211609. URL: <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/abs/10.1098/rsos.211609>.

- [3] **George G. Vega Yon**, Andrew Slaughter, and Kayla de la Haye. “Exponential random graph models for little networks”. In: *Social Networks* 64 (2021). (**Top 10 most downloaded articles—since December 2020—from Social Networks as of June 6, 2021.**), pp. 225–238. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2020.07.005>.
- [4] **George G. Vega Yon**. “Building, Importing, and Exporting GEXF Graph Files with rgexf”. In: *Journal of Open Source Software* 6 (June 2021), p. 3456. URL: <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.03456>.
- [5] **George G. Vega Yon**, Duncan C. Thomas, John Morrison, et al. “Bayesian parameter estimation for automatic annotation of gene functions using observational data and phylogenetic trees”. In: *PLOS Computational Biology* 17.2 (Feb. 2021), pp. 1–35. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1007948>.
- [6] Thomas W. Valente and **George G. Vega Yon**. “Diffusion/Contagion Processes on Social Networks”. In: *Health Education & Behavior* 47.2 (2020), pp. 235–248. URL: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1090198120901497>.
- [7] Kayla de la Haye, Heesung Shin, **George G. Vega Yon, et al.** “Smoking Diffusion through Networks of Diverse, Urban American Adolescents over the High School Period”. In: *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 60.3 (2019), pp. 362–376. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022146519870521>.
- [8] Thomas W. Valente, Heather Wipfli, and **George G. Vega Yon**. “Network influences on policy implementation: Evidence from a global health treaty”. In: *Social Science and Medicine* 222 (2019), 188–197. URL: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953619300085>.
- [9] **George G. Vega Yon** and Brian Quistorff. “parallel: A command for parallel computing”. In: *The Stata Journal: Promoting communications on statistics and Stata* 19.3 (Sept. 2019), pp. 667–684. URL: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1536867X19874242>.
- [10] **George G. Vega Yon** and Paul Marjoram. “fmcmm: A friendly MCMC framework”. In: *Journal of Open Source Software* 4.39 (July 2019), p. 1427. URL: <http://joss.theoj.org/papers/10.21105/joss.01427>.
- [11] **George G. Vega Yon** and Paul Marjoram. “slurmR: A lightweight wrapper for HPC with Slurm”. In: *Journal of Open Source Software* 4.39 (July 2019), p. 1493. URL: <https://joss.theoj.org/papers/10.21105/joss.01493>.
- [12] Brooke M. Bell, Donna Spruijt-Metz, **George G. Vega Yon**, et al. “Sensing eating mimicry among family members”. In: *Translational Behavioral Medicine* 9.3 (May 2019), pp. 422–430. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1093/tbm/ibz051>.
- [13] Jorge Fábrega Lacoa and **George G. Vega Yon**. “El impacto del rating televisivo sobre la actividad en Twitter: evidencia para Chile sobre la base del evento TELETÓN 2012”. In: *Cuadernos.info* 33 (Dec. 2013), pp. 43–52. URL: <http://cuadernos.info/index.php/CDI/article/view/533>.

Work in Progress and Technical Reports

- [1] Kyosuke Tanaka and **George G. Vega Yon**. “Imaginary Network Motifs: Structural Patterns of False Positives and Negatives in Social Networks”. 2022.
- [2] **George G. Vega Yon**, Duncan C. Thomas, John Morrison, et al. “Modeling Gene Functional Evolution using Sufficient Statistics”. 2021.
- [3] **George G. Vega Yon**. *Capital Necesario Unitario (CNU): Cálculo e Introducción Del Módulo de Stata CNU*. Working Papers 57. Superintendencia de Pensiones, Aug. 2014. URL: <https://ideas.repec.org/p/sdp/sdpwps/57.html>.
- [4] Ximena Quintanilla, Isabel Poblete, **George G. Vega Yon**, et al. *Estudio Actuarial de los Fondos del Seguro de Cesantía*. Tech. rep. 2013.
- [5] Andrea Repetto and **George G. Vega Yon**. *El Impacto de un Alza en la Cotización Previsional: Pensiones, Salarios y Empleo*. Tech. rep. 2013.

Software Packages

- [1] **George G. Vega Yon**. *aphylo: Statistical Inference of Annotated Phylogenetic Trees* (2022). R package version 0.2-1. URL: <https://cran.r-project.org/package=aphylo>.
downloads 5316
- [2] **George G. Vega Yon**. *A Flexible and General Agent Based Model Engine* (2022). C++ library version 0.0-1. URL: <https://github.com/UofUEpi/epiworld>.
- [3] **George G. Vega Yon**. *netplot: Beautiful graph drawing* (2021). R package version 0.1-1. URL: <https://cran.r-project.org/package=netplot>.
downloads 6620
- [4] **George G. Vega Yon**. *rgexf: Build, Import and Export GEXF Graph Files* (2020). R package version 0.16.0. URL: <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=rgexf>.
downloads 597K
- [5] **George G. Vega Yon**, Thomas Valente. *netdiffuseR: Analysis of Diffusion and Contagion Processes on Networks* (2020). R package version 1.22.0. URL: <https://github.com/USCCANA/netdiffuseR>.
downloads 36K
- [6] **George G. Vega Yon**, Kayla de la Haye. *ergmito: Exponential Random Graph Models for Small Networks* (2020). R package version 0.3-0. URL: <https://cran.r-project.org/package=ergmito>.
downloads 19K

- [7] **George G. Vega Yon**. *slurmR: A Lightweight Wrapper for 'Slurm'* (2020). R package version 0.4-1. URL: <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=slurmR>.
downloads 24K
- [8] **George G. Vega Yon**. *fmcmc: A friendly MCMC framework* (2020). R package version 0.3-0. URL: <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=fmcmc>.
downloads 20K
- [9] **George G. Vega Yon**. *barry: your to-go motif accountant* (2020). C++ library version 0.0-1. URL: <https://github.com/USCbiostats/barry>.
- [10] **George G. Vega Yon**. *pruner: Implementing the Felsenstein's Tree Pruning algorithm* (2020). C++ library version 0.0-1. URL: <https://github.com/USCbiostats/pruner>.
- [11] **George G. Vega Yon**, Brian Quistorff. *parallel: Stata Module for Parallel Computing* (2019). Stata Module version 1.20.0. URL: <https://github.com/gvegayon/parallel>.
- [12] **George G. Vega Yon**. *googlePublicData: Working with Google's 'Public Data Explorer' DSPL Meta-data Files* (2017). R package version 0.16.1. URL: <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=googlePublicData>.
downloads 41K
- [13] **George G. Vega Yon**, Enyelbert Mu noz. *ABCOptim: Implementation of Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) Optimization* (2017). R package version 0.15.0. URL: <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=ABCOptim>.
downloads 66K
- [14] **George G. Vega Yon**. *twitterreport: Out-of-the-box analysis and reporting tools for twitter* (2016). R package version 0.16. URL: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.44528>.

Conference Talks

- [1] Matthew Samore, **George G. Vega Yon**, Karim Khader, et al. "The importance of interaction networks in long-term care facilities to reduce the equilibrium prevalence of infectious pathogens". In: Sunbelt 2022. (conference talk). July 2022.
- [2] Kyosuke Tanaka and **George G. Vega Yon**. "Imaginary Network Motifs: Structural Patterns of False Positives and Negatives in Social Networks". In: 72th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association. (conference talk). May 2022.
- [3] Marie Ouellet, Sadaf Hashimi, and **George G. Vega Yon**. "Network Influence in Officer Firearm Use". In: NETWORKS 2021 - A Joint Sunbelt and NetSci Conference. (conference talk). July 2021.

- [4] **George Vega Yon**. “Triads, Dyads, and Gene Functions - When Social Network Analysis Meets Phylogenetics”. In: NETWORKS 2021 - A Joint Sunbelt and NetSci Conference. (conference talk). July 2021.
- [5] **George G. Vega Yon**, Aileen Dinkjian, Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, et al. “ERGMito Statistical Models for Small Team Social Networks”. In: SciTS 2020. (conference talk, [slides/video](#)). June 2020.
- [6] **George G. Vega Yon**, Andrew Slaughter, and Kayla de la Haye. “Exact Statistics and Semi-Parametric Tests for Small Network Data”. In: IC2S2, 2019. (conference talk, [slides](#)). July 2019.
- [7] **George G. Vega Yon**, Andrew Slaughter, and Kayla de la Haye. “Exact Statistics and Semi-Parametric Tests for Small Network Data”. In: Sunbelt 2019. (conference talk, [slides](#)). June 2019.
- [8] **George G. Vega Yon** and Kayla de la Haye. “Small network statistics for the network science of teams”. In: NetSciX 2019, SCL. (conference talk, [slides](#)). Jan. 2019.
- [9] **George Vega Yon**. “Computacion de Alto Rendimiento con R”. In: satRday Santiago 2018. (conference workshop, [slides](#)). Dec. 2018.
- [10] **George G. Vega Yon** and Kayla de la Haye. “Big Problems for Small Networks: Small Network Statistics”. In: NASN 2018, DC. (conference talk, [slides](#)). Nov. 2018.
- [11] **George G. Vega Yon**, Kayla de la Haye, Hee-sung Shin, et al. “Diffusion of Smoking Initiation Among Diverse, Urban American Adolescents Over The High School Period”. In: NASN 2017. (conference talk, [slides](#)). July 2017.
- [12] **George G. Vega Yon** and Brian Quistorff. “Uncomplicated Parallel Computing with Stata”. In: Stata Conference 2017. (conference talk, [slides](#)). July 2017.
- [13] **George G. Vega Yon** and Thomas W. Valente. “Understanding Diffusion with netdiffuseR”. In: NASN 2017. (conference workshop, [slides](#)). July 2017.
- [14] **George G. Vega Yon** and Thomas W. Valente. “Network Diffusion of Innovations in R: Introducing netdiffuseR”. In: IC2S2, 2016. (conference poster, [slides](#)). June 2016.
- [15] **George G. Vega Yon** and Thomas W. Valente. “Network Diffusion of Innovations in R: Introducing netdiffuseR”. In: useR! 2016. (conference talk, [slides/video](#)). June 2016.
- [16] **George G. Vega Yon** and Thomas W. Valente. “Understanding Diffusion with netdiffuseR”. In: Sunbelt Conference, 2016. (conference workshop, [slides/video](#)). Mar. 2016.
- [17] **George Vega Yon**. “Just tired of endless loops! or parallel: Stata module for parallel computing”. In: Stata Conference, 2013. (conference talk, [slides](#)). July 2013.

Invited Speaker

- [1] "Network visualization (in R) with "netplot" and motif counting (in C++) with "barry"". In: SCI Seminar. (invited talk, [slides](#)). Apr. 2023.
- [2] "Prediction of Gene Functions by Leveraging Biological Insights with Mechanistic Machine Learning". In: University of Utah Data Science Seminar. (invited talk, [slides/video](#)). Jan. 2023.
- [3] "Triadas, lazos y funciones genéticas: cuando las redes sociales y la filogenética se encuentran". In: Seminario de Data Science. (invited talk, [slides/video](#)). May 2021.
- [4] "Triads, Dyads, and Gene Functions - When Social Network Analysis Meets Phylogenetics". In: Computational Cancer Genomics Working Group Evening Lecture. (invited talk, [slides/video](#)). Mar. 2021.
- [5] ""Predicción de funciones genéticas utilizando evidencia experimental y árboles filogenéticos: Un modelo evolutivo" o "Ciencia de datos en la práctica"". In: PUC Mathematical and Computational Engineering Seminars. (invited talk, [slides](#)). Apr. 2020.
- [6] "A Brief Introduction to Using R for High-Performance Computing". In: Orange County R Users Group. (invited talk, [slides/video](#)). Aug. 2019.
- [7] "Big Problems for Small Networks: Statistical Analysis of Small Networks and Team Performance". In: UCI Social Network Research Group. (invited talk, [slides](#)). Apr. 2019.
- [8] "Big Problems for Small Networks: Statistical Analysis of Small Networks and Team Performance". In: SONIC Speaker. (invited talk, [slides/video](#)). Mar. 2019.
- [9] "Estadística de Redes y Econometría Espacial (con R)". In: IMFD Summer School. (invited talk, [slides/video](#)). Dec. 2018.

Other Talks

- [1] "Mechanistic Machine Learning". In: MInD2.0 Visit Harvard. (talk, [slides](#)). May 2023.
- [2] "A Crash course on git". In: Happy Scientist Seminar. (workshop, [slides/video](#)). Mar. 2021.
- [3] "HPC with Slurm, R, and the slurmR R package". In: Happy Scientist Seminar. (workshop, [slides/video](#)). Feb. 2021.
- [4] "Essays on Bioinformatics and Social Network Analysis: Statistical and Computational Methods for Complex Systems". In: Doctoral Defense. (talk, [slides](#)). June 2020.
- [5] "Essays on Bioinformatics and Social Network Analysis Statistical and Computational Methods for Complex Systems". In: Biostats Seminars. (talk, [slides/video](#)). Jan. 2020.
- [6] "slurmR workshop". In: Happy Scientist Semminar Series. (workshop, [slides](#)). Jan. 2020.
- [7] "Happy Scientist Seminar: Research Pipelines". In: Happy Scientist Seminar. (talk, [slides](#)). Oct. 2019.

- [8] “What drives social networks? A gentle introduction to exponential random graph models (with a focus on small networks)”. In: East LA R User Group. (talk, [slides](#)). June 2019.
- [9] “Overview of Social Network Models”. In: (talk, [slides](#)). Dec. 2018.
- [10] “A brief introduction to using R for high-performance computing”. In: East LA R User Group. (talk, [slides](#)). Nov. 2018.
- [11] “R Bootcamp for Scientific Computing 2018”. In: R Bootcamp for Scientific Computing. (workshop, [slides](#)). Aug. 2018.
- [12] “Intro to R”. In: USC’s HPCC workshop. (workshop, [slides](#)). July 2018.
- [13] “Introduction to R (for HPC users)”. In: USC’s HPCC workshop. (workshop, [slides](#)). July 2018.
- [14] “Reproducible Research”. In: Health Behavior Research Students talk. (talk, [slides](#)). Sept. 2016.

Teaching

(PHS 7045) Advanced Programming with R and HPC

Fall 2022

The University of Utah, USA

Co-instructor, PHS Ph.D. Program

(PM 566) Introduction to Health Data Science

Fall 2021

University of Southern California, USA

Instructor, Masters of Science in Public Health Data Science

(PM 566) Introduction to Health Data Science

Fall 2020

University of Southern California, USA

Co-instructor, Masters of Science in Public Health Data Science

Statistical Computing with Stata

First semester 2012

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile

Instructor, Masters in Economics and Public Policy

Introduction to Economics

First semester 2012

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile

Co-instructor, B.A. in Business Administration

Microeconomics

Second semester 2012

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile

Co-instructor, B.A. in Business Administration

Introduction to Economics

First semester 2011

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile
Co-instructor, B.A. in Business Administration

Mentoring/Advising

Qualifying Exam chair and Member, Ph.D. Dissertation Committee (2022–Present), Katherine Lawson Michod, University of Utah, Population Health Sciences, Clinical and Translational Epidemiology PhD program.

Supervisor, RA (2022–Present), Derek Meyer, University of Utah, Population Health Science, Agent-Based Models for Epidemics.

Mentor, (2022), Luis Lopez, NIH, Postbac program, Exponential-Family Random Graph Models.

Honors and Services to the Profession

Manuscript Review (Ad Hoc)

Journal of the American Statistical Association
The Official Journal of The Society for Computational Economics
The R Journal
The Stata Journal
Social Networks
Journal of Mathematical Sociology
Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine Update
Journal of Open Source Software
Bioinformatics

Abstract Review

International Conference on Computational Social Science (2019–2021)
SUNBELT Conference (2016)

Panelist

“Social Network Diffusion of Individual Behavior Change Interventions Virtual Workshop”, National Institute on Aging Division of Behavioral and Social Research (NIA BSR), March 2022.

Book Review

“Microeconometrics and Matlab: An Introduction”, by Adams, Clarke and Quinn, Oxford University Press, 2015.
“Mastering Gephi Network Visualization”, by Ken Cherven, Packt Publishing, 2015.



“Network Graph Analysis and Visualization with Gephi”, by Ken Cherven, Packt Publishing, 2013.

Misc

Lead of “Network Science and Social Network Analysis at the U (NetSNAU)” research group (2022-)

Member of “Center for Applied Network Analysis (CANA) at USC” research group (2016-)

Co-organizer of the [USC Networks Meeting](#) (2020, 2021)

Founder of the (first) [R Users Group in Chile](#) (2013)

Co-organizer of the [East LA R User Group \(LAERUG\)](#).

Software

R, C++, \LaTeX , SQL, XML, regex, Stata+Mata, VBA, Gephi, Pajek, Mathematica, MS Suit, Git, Unix, Docker, Visual Studio Code

last update: May 20, 2023

<https://ggvy.cl>